

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-9 and 15-28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 7 and 10-14 are canceled, claim 15 is amended, and claims 21-28 are added. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 9 and 20. These claims are not written in independent form at this time, since their base claims are allowable as described below.

Applicants also thank Examiner Dinh for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives during the personal interview on October 22. During the interview, the Examiner agreed that proposed amended claim 15 would overcome the current §112 and §102(b) rejections.

I. Formal Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 4 and 15-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

The rejection of claim 4 is moot, since claim 4 has been canceled. Claim 15 is amended to obviate this rejection. In particular, claim 15 is amended to recite that a power supply region and a ground region are formed in the same plane. This feature is shown in Figs. 14B-14D and supported in the specification at, for example, page 29, line 14-page 30, line 7. As agreed during the interview, this amendment overcomes this 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

II. The Pending Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

A. The Office Action rejects claims 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,898,576 to Lockwood et al. (Lockwood). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 15 recites, *inter alia*, that a power supply region and a ground region are formed in the same plane.

As shown in Fig. 3 of Lockwood, a power plane 32 and a ground plane 34 are formed in two different planes. As agreed during the interview, claim 15 is patentably distinct from the applied prior art.

Claims 16-18 are allowable at least for their dependence on an allowable base claim. As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

B. The Office Action rejects claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lockwood. Although the grounds for rejecting claim 19 refers to claim 8, Applicants assume that it was meant for claim 19. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 19 is allowable at least for its dependence on an allowable base claim. As such, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

C. The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 4-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lockwood in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,926,377 to Nakao et al. (Nakao). Applicants respectfully assume that claim 8 is also rejected under this rejection, since a ground for rejecting claim 8 is provided under this rejection. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, that a terminal element having an impedance that is substantially equal to a characteristic impedance between at least one region of a power region and a ground region is connected between the power supply region and the ground region at a terminal of the at least one region and that the region that may be considered a

track has a length that is larger than a width. The "length that is larger" than a width" feature was originally recited in cancelled claim 7.

In other words, as discussed during the interview, the claimed invention has a specific structure in which the terminal element is connected at the terminal end of a region of the power region. As described in the specification at, for example, page 8, lines 4-13, there is an advantage that by connecting a terminal element at a terminal portion (end) of an overlapping region having a predetermined length at a predetermined width and between the power supply layer and a ground layer, no current reflectance concentrating at portions of a track configuration at which the width becomes narrower can be suppressed, and thus electromagnetic radiation can be suppressed. Therefore, it becomes unnecessary to connect many terminal loads between the power supply layer and the ground layer. As a result, a reduction in the regions of mountable portions on the circuit board can be prevented.

On the other hand, in Lockwood, as shown in Fig. 9, a plurality of termination elements (alleged to correspond to the terminal element) are positioned at the entire periphery of the power layer 32 and the ground layer 34. In addition, Lockwood does not recognize the advantage described above. Nakao does not overcome this deficiency of Lockwood. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentably distinct from the applied prior art.

The rejection of claim 4 is moot, since claim 4 has been canceled.

Claims 5, 6 and 8 are allowable at least for their dependence on allowable base claim 1.

At least for the reasons described above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

D. Claims 21-28 are added by this Amendment.

Claim 21 recite that the slit has a T-shape. This feature is shown in Fig. 1 and described in the specification at page 20, lines 4-9, for example.

Claim 22 recites that the power supply region is entirely surrounded by the ground region. This feature is supported by Fig. 14C. Claim 23 recites that the power supply region and the ground region face each other without overlapping, and claim 24 recites that the power supply region and the ground region have the same shape. These features are supported by Fig. 14D.

Claims 25 and 27 each recite that the terminal element is connected between the power supply region and the ground region only at the terminal end of the region. Claims 26 and 28 each recite that an outer periphery of the power supply region and the ground region is free from connection by the terminal element. These features are shown in Fig. 1, for example.

These features are not taught or suggested by any of the applied prior art solely or in combination. As such, claims 21-28 are allowable at least for their dependence on allowable base claims, as well as for the features they recite.

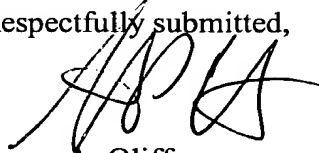
E. Claims 2 and 3 are currently withdrawn from consideration. Upon allowance of claim 1, rejoinder of claims 2 and 3 is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3, 5-9 and 15-24 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: November 10, 2003

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